

Delaware Department of Justice
Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III



The Delaware Victims' Compensation Assistance Program

Helping Victims Recover Losses



If you or a family member has been physically or emotionally injured by a crime in Delaware, the Delaware **Victims' Compensation Assistance Program** (VCAP) may be able to help you.

VCAP has been providing support to victims of crime over the course of four decades. Part of Delaware's Department of Justice, VCAP helps alleviate the financial burden and distress that crime leaves on all victims.

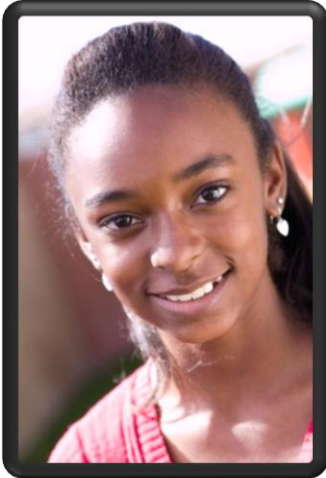
The intense...and often unexpected...nature of violent crime leaves victims physically and emotionally shaken. If you or your family have been impacted by a violent act, the staff at VCAP are here to help.

What types of crimes may be covered?

Every year, VCAP helps victims and their families who have been physically or emotionally injured by a crime in Delaware. The most common cases for which awards are granted include assault, murder, child abuse crimes, domestic violence crimes, kidnapping, arson, home invasion, and sexual assault or sexual abuse.

To learn more, visit our website:
www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/VCAP

A Process With You In Mind



How can I be compensated?

As traumatic as a violent crime can be, in order for the perpetrator to be brought to justice, the cooperation of the victim is needed. All losses must be supported by documentation before compensation can be awarded.

To be eligible for compensation:

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours (unless this requirement is waived by VCAP).
- A claim must be filed with VCAP within 1 year of the crime, unless an extension is granted by VCAP.
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrator.
- The victim must cooperate with VCAP staff and provide all information requested.
- The victim must not have caused or contributed to his/her injury or death.

What kind of financial help may be available?

Compensation may be available for many types of services. Examples include:

- Medical and/or dental expenses for the victim
- Mental health treatment or counseling
- Wage or income loss
- Income loss to a custodian while providing care to a child victim
- Costs of attending court proceedings
- Loss of support for victims and dependents in certain situations
- Funeral and/or burial expenses
- Moving/Relocation expenses
- Temporary housing
- Change of locks, doors or windows to help make your residence safe
- Replacing items seized as evidence by police

Requests for cases to be heard on an emergency basis are available if necessary. Limits have been set for certain types of losses; generally, no award can exceed \$25,000 unless the victim is permanently and totally disabled, where the limit is \$50,000. Additional compensation may be available for one year prior to, or two years following, the offender's release from prison or the date of the retrial, parole hearing, or other court-related events involving the offender.

Assisting You Through The Process

How do I file a claim?

A printable claim form is available on the VCAP website at: www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/VCAP. You can also obtain a claim form by calling VCAP at **(302) 995-8383**.

The claim form asks you to provide general information about your case. You should also submit with your claim copies of any bills you want VCAP to pay.

VCAP staff members are available in office locations statewide to help you through the claim process.

Please call VCAP if you need help completing your claim or if you have any questions.



What can I expect?

After receiving your application, VCAP will assign you a case number. VCAP requests police reports and other documentation that may be needed to review your case.

VCAP staff will examine your claim. The time to process your claim depends on how accurate and complete your claim form is, and how quickly additional information can be gathered to thoroughly review your case.

You will receive a written decision regarding the outcome of your claim. If your claim is approved, the decision will list payments to be made by VCAP. If your claim is denied or you disagree with the decision, you can submit a written request for reconsideration or an appeal.

For help, please contact us.

State of Delaware

Victims' Compensation Assistance Program

Telephone: (302) 995-8383

Fax: (302) 995-8387

Website: www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/VCAP

Other Available Resources include:

Delaware Victim Center

1-800-VICTIM-1 (In-State Only)

Delaware Dept. of Justice, Victim/Witness Services

(302) 577-8500 (New Castle County)

(302) 739-4211 (Kent County)

(302) 856-5353 (Sussex County)

Delaware Helpline *Ask for VCAP*

1-800-464-HELP (In-State)

1-800-273-9500 (Out-of-State)

What is *not* covered?

You cannot be paid for lost, damaged, or stolen property. No benefits are available for pain and suffering.

The VCAP is the payor of last resort. This means it will not cover financial losses that are covered by other sources, such as insurance.